

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERIM REPORT ON EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS'
MEETING OF DEC. 20. 1976: NEW EC BEEF IMPORT LEVY REGIME

REF: (A)EC BRUSSELS 11595,(B)EC A-472,(C)EC A-28 OF 2/7/74,
(D)EC A-41

BEGIN SUMMARY:
THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS APPROVED A
NEW LEVY REGIME FOR BEEF IMPORTS WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT WHEN
THE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE IS LIFTED APRIL 1 (REF.A).THE MINISTERS
MAINTAINED THE GATT QUOTA ON FROZEN BONELESS BEEF AT 38,500
M.T.FOR CY 1977 (REF.B).THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE
SPECIAL IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 75,000 MT.OF BEEF FOR PROCESSING
TO COVER EXPECTED EC NEEDS NEXT YEAR (REF.C).THE COMMISSION WILL
BE OFFERING CANNED BEEF AND BONELESS BEEF OUT OF EC INTERVENTION
STOCKS UNDER THE JUMELAGE SYSTEM DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD UP
UNTIL ITS EXPIRATION NEXT APRIL (REF.D).END SUMMARY.

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IMPORT LEVIES
EC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF A TWO-DAY COUNCIL
SESSION AGREED TO A NEW BEEF IMPORT LEVY SYSTEM WHICH WILL COME
INTO EFFECT APRIL 1 (WHEN THE IMPORT EMBARGO IS LIFTED (AND WHEN
JUMELAGE IS TERMINATED)BASICALLY THE NEW LEVY SYSTEM WILL
WIDEN THE PROTECTION FOR EC PRODUCERS WHEN THEIR MARKET PRICES

ARE BELOW EC SUPPORT PRICES,AS FOLLOWS:

WHEN AVERAGE EC MARKET PRICE IS: APPLICABLE LEVY IS:

90 PERCENT OF ORIENTATION PRICE 114 PERCENT OF BASIC LEVY

MAXIMUM

PROTECTION

106 PERCENT OF ORIENTATION PRICE NIL MINIMUM

PROTECTION

THE BASIC LEVY IS EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORIENTATION PRICE AND THE LOWEST WORLD OFFER PRICE FOR THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION. UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM,IMPORT LEVIES WERE DECREASED ACCORDING TO A SET SCALE WHEN EC MARKET PRICES EXCEEDED ORIENTATION PRICES,BUT THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR INCREASING THE LEVIES OVER 100 PERCENT OF THE BASIC LEVY WHEN MARKET PRICES WERE BELOW ORIENTATION PRICES.THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ADJUST LEVIES MONTHLY.TEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATION WILL BE PUBLISHED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. WE WILL FORWARD IT BY AIRGRAM WHEN AVAILABLE.

GATT FORZEN BEEF QUOTA

THE COUNCIL APPROVED MAINTAINING THE GATT QUOTA FOR FROZEN BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS FOR CY 1977 AT 38,500 M.T.,THE SAME LEVEL AS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.BUT THE COUNCIL MODIFIED SLIGHTLY THE MEMBER STATE ALLOCATIONS UNDER THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL; EG. UK QUOTA IS 12,750 M.T.INSTEAD OF 12,150.

BEEF FOR PROCESSING

IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY PROCESSING INDUSTRY NEXT YEAR,THE COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO SPECIAL IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 75,000 M.T.OF BEEF FOR PROCESSING.OUT OF THIS AMOUNT, 25,000

M MT.OF BEEF FOR CORNING WILL BE IMPORTED LEVY-FREE AND THE REMAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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50,000 M.T.OF BEEF FOR PROCESSING CAN BE SUBJECT TO A LEVY EQUAL TO NO MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE BASIC LEVY.LAST YEAR THE COMMUNITY DID NOT PROVIDE SPECIAL IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR BEEF FOR THE PROCESSING INDUSTRY.

JUMELAGE

DURING THE REMAINING EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF JUMELAGE (THE SYSTEM WHEREBY BEEF IMPORTS ARE LINKED TO PURCHASES OUT OF EC INTERVENTION STOCKS),THE COMMISSION WILL MAKE AVAILABLE GREATER QUANTITIES OF CANNED BEEF OUT OF INTERVENTION STOCKS DURING JANUARY AND FOR THE FIRST TIME BONELESS BEEF UP TO A MAXIMUM 20,000 M.TDURING FEBRUARY-MARCH.

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